

FORWARD

28 and 5...





Exhibition and contests of model planes was a lively feature at the Students' Festival held at Mandalay. Here, some Air Youth, under the eye of their instructor, Warrant Officer Bo Khin Maung, are seen with their little aircraft before the start of a contest.

Photo by Ko Ko Ko Cyi

FORWARD

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Photo by U Lay Ni

Cover:

A party of 100 Marine Youth sailed on an enjoyable sea trip aboard the Navy's frigate "Mayu". In the picture, some of them try their hand at gunnery, learning to turn, load, sight and fire a gun. (Article on inside pages)

EXPANDING THE ENVIRONMENT

TRADITIONALLY, as the Burmese people love their homes they are allergic to travel beyond their own areas. Far from venturing abroad, they have not travelled extensively even within their homeland. Their parochial attitude has also originated from the topographical layout of the country. Mountains and rivers run from north to south. So running parallel to them is the convenient passageway. To go crosswise to this route would only invite hardship upon encountering natural barriers. As for contacts with the outside world, Burma for long has had little other opportunity except that of utilizing some self-seeking individuals.

Isolated from the rest of the world and thereby ignorant of the international scene, it was not surprising that Burma fell under foreign subjugation. Inasmuch as colonial rule did open Burma to the world, this offered but slight advantage to the Burmese themselves. For one thing, an old, deep-rooted narrow outlook such as mentioned could disappear only in time. Then again, such modern facilities of communications as were introduced were those maintained by the foreign rulers to serve their own interests. These failed to keep abreast of world standards.

Times have, nonetheless, ushered in fast, momentous changes. Accordingly, Burma today, as befitting her status as a member of the comity of independent countries and her character of a multi-racial family, must forge new and stronger links of intimacy and friendship within her environment. She has the need to develop goodwill with other nations. Likewise, she has the need to strengthen the fraternal bonds among her own nationals. To achieve this favourable atmosphere both internally and overseas, one of the prime prerequisites is wider travel. And this thought revives a recollection of a typical song of boatmen in bygone days, promising their belles in Upper Burma that they will surely return when the bird figurehead on the bows again swings northward. A charming song, no doubt, but not characteristic of this age when slow, outmoded means of travel must be supplanted with the latest types of plane, train, car or ship.

With communications enhanced, among those who are enjoying this benefit are the country's students. It is heartening to observe them being instructed in the marvels of aviation and marine travel during the school vacation. It is gladdening to find their outings taking them to the home territory of our national kinsmen. For the present, such excursions of our youth are concentrated on inland areas. Next they will embark on foreign travel, to weld friendship between Burma and the world. By fully exploiting the age of speed travel, we are expanding our environment in the globe.

Current Affairs

POLITICS

In-service Ideology Courses

In-service courses in ideology for officers and other ranks of the Defence Services and People's Police Force and Civil officials ended on May 20, at six Command Headquarters.

Commanders Colonel Hla Phone, Colonel Tin U, Colonel Sein Mya, Colonel San Kyi, Colonel Aung Pe, and Colonel Maung Lwin spoke at the closing ceremonies at their respective commands.

In their speeches, they unanimously emphasized to counter destructive activities of insurgents with constructive activities and also told the trainees of the important role they were playing in the change over from the bureaucratic system of administration to one in tune with the Burmese Way to Socialism.

Finally, the Commanders warned the trainees not to look upon themselves as a special class of people and expect extra privileges.

Altogether 749 trainees attended the course at six commands.

CULTURE

Buddha Day celebrated

The Fullmoon Day of Kason, also observed as the Buddha Day, was celebrated throughout the country on May 23.

Rangoon Command Commander Col. Hla Phone speaks at the function marking the completion of the 5th In-Service Course.



In Rangoon, devotees in thousands thronged the Shwedagon, Kaba Aye, Sule, Botahtaung, and other Pagodas from early morning till late in the night.

The Seventeenth Buddha Day was held at the Buddhajayanti Dhamayone where 1,000 alms-bowls with soon were offered to 1,000 Sanghas.

The 42nd Kason Nyaung-ye-thabin, the ceremony of pouring water at the foot of the Bodhi tree, at the South-eastern corner of the Shwedagon Pagoda, was held with great solemnity and pageantry on the morning of that day.

Many associations and groups thronged the Shwedagon Pagoda platform in procession, the girls carrying water in pots for pouring at the Bodhi tree.

Speaking on the significance of the Buddha Day, the Venerable Nayin U Kawvida Sayadaw lauded the Revolutionary Government which, he said, was emancipating the peasants and workers who formed the majority of the country's population from all forms of exploitation.

The Sayadaw also said that it was common knowledge that the Revolutionary Government was promoting the Buddha Sasana for its everlasting glory.

Elsewhere in the country the Fullmoon Day of Kason was celebrated at the principal Pagodas of the towns.

Artistes' Seminar

To revive the ancient Burmese arts and culture, standardize them,

and preserve them for posterity, the Seminar of the officials of the State Schools of Music and Drama and Fine Arts of Rangoon and Mandalay was held at the BBS studio in Rangoon.

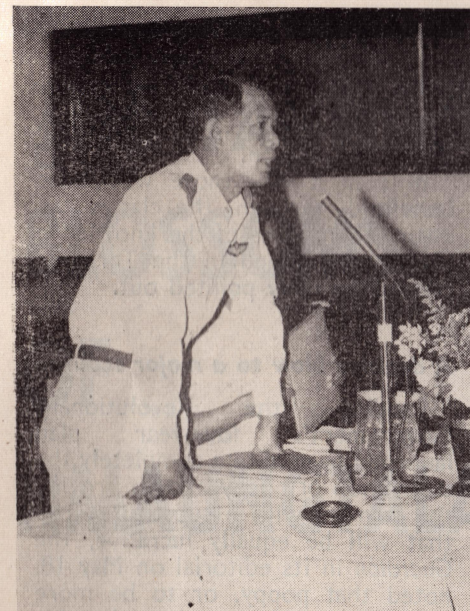
Culture and Information Minister Brigadier Thauz Dan, in his inaugural speech, declared that the "zats" and "anyains" of today are out-moded and corrupting the old forms, and it is high time they were transformed to preserve the cultural heritage in its pristine purity.

The best way to transform the present-day "zats" and "anyains" was through these schools, the Minister said, and urged the artistes to give the seminar the benefit of their wisdom how the scope of these schools might be improved and expanded.

In the discussions which followed many prominent artistes like U Gon Ban, Guitar U Sein Maung and U Han Tin gave useful suggestions on teaching of dancing, singing, and playing musical instruments, selecting trainees and extending the study hours.

Cultural Secretary Lt.-Col. Aye Kyaw (Air) and Deputy Secretary U Thein Dan next led the discussion on the organization of bodies for music, drama and arts, and their duties and functions.

The Seminar was attended by officials from Ministry of Culture, Party Headquarters, members of the Culture Council, Arts and Sculpture Council and the Theatrical Council.



Minister for Culture and Information Brigadier Thauz Dan speaks at the opening session of the seminar on instruction of music, dancing and fine arts.



EDUCATION

P.A.Y. Movement to be extended

To encourage students to become air-minded and take up flying as career when they grow up, the Pioneer Youth (Air) movement will be extended to Meiktila, Myitkyina, Hmawbi, Mingaladon, and Loimwe in Kentung District.

Building and flying of model planes, glider flying and the fundamentals of airmanship will be taught to them at the BAF Training Camps.

In addition to teaching them to build and fly model planes, they will be given fundamental lessons in aero-dynamics, airmanship, air-traffic control, signal and radio, aeronautics, meteorology, and other allied subjects.

They will also be given training, on the ground, the fundamentals of flying and international flight rules and regulations.

All these are designed for the youth, including girls, to utilize their leisure hours profitably.

A.D.N.R. holds first graduation

The Academy for Development of National Races at Sagaing which was opened in October 1964, to promote educational, cultural, and social development of the national races and also fraternity and unity among the peoples of the Union, held its first graduation on May 27, 1967.

The trainees comprised 20 from Kachin State, 11 from Kayah, 19

from Kawthoolei, 53 from Shan State, 20 from Chin Hills Special Division, 31 from the Northwestern Command, four from the Southeastern Command, nine from the Southwestern Command, and 18 from the Central Command.

In their speeches both U Dingra Tang, Chairman of the Kachin State Affairs Council, and Colonel Sein Mya, Commander of the Northwestern Command recalled the 17th Union Day Speech of Chairman General Ne Win in which he assured

the national races of equal opportunity to develop their culture, arts, and letters to the fullest extent.

U Dingra Tang urged them to enlist the co-operation of the local authorities and with courage, conscientiousness and *cetana* promote unity and solidarity among the national races and work steadfastly for their social welfare and economic wellbeing.

The ceremony was attended by U Tun Aye, U San Kho Lian, Padoh Ba Tun, Director Major Tun Myat and

Devotees on their way to a Bodhi tree to pour water.



Lecturers of the Academy, District SAC members, Lanzin Party No. 4 DSC Vice-Chairman and Heads of Departments.

The Diplomas were given away by U Dingra Tang to the 185 graduates and a graduation dinner and entertainments were held there.

PUBLIC WORKS AND HOUSING

PWC Overseers Training Course

The 21-week training course for Overseers was opened on May 17 by the Public Works and Housing Minister Brigadier Sein Win, at the PWC training school in Thuwunna.

In his inaugural speech, the Brigadier urged PWC workers to develop their ideology and skill as skilled workers are as necessary for the success of the Socialist Revolution as good soldiers are for victory in battle.

He again exhorted them to not only improve their skill but also learn how to use people's property economically and effectively and then only, he pointed out that they will be able to carry out the PWC's motto of "Quick, Good and Cheap."

In conclusion, the Brigadier briefed them to use the property of the people in the interest of the people, work towards the goal where a worker would automatically come to enjoy the fruits of his labour.

The course was attended by 79 trainees and the opening ceremony was attended by the Engineers, Directors and Departmental Heads of the PWC.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Border with East Pakistan

Border posts separating Burma from East Pakistan have been erected in the Naaf River in accordance with a Boundary Agreement signed between the two countries.

The change in the course of the Naaf River, which previously was taken as border, caused complications in border problems and the two countries agreed to a fixed boundary along the middle line of the main navigation route in the river.

The agreement also provides for the right of navigation to rivercraft of both countries along the main navigational route in the river whether the route changes its course or not.

THE PULSE OF THE PRESS

Athletic Talent Banks

Writing on the upset met by Burma Youth Soccer Team at the last Asian Youth Football Tournament, Bangkok, the *Working People's Daily* opined in its editorial on May 18, that in building a football team that can be looked upon as undisputed champions, it would be wrong to put the whole blame on luck, or lack of goal luck.

The paper then warned that although the Burmese soccer had made tremendous improvement in recent years, it is still our duty to keep on striving to improve our playing standard.

Recording, with regret, the decision of the Universities Sports Committee to withdraw from league and the withdrawal of Defence Services teams from local competitions, the paper pointed out that, in all countries, the Universities and the Armed Forces are looked upon as the biggest athletic talent banks and consequently it urged to draw on them in a realistic way.

Basic Education System

Welcoming the new Basic Educational System which is to be launched starting from the present academic year, the *Loketha Pyithu Nezin* said in its editorial on May 16, that it is most probable that teachers who have been instructed on the System have absorbed the instructions in varying degrees.

For the successful implementation of the new system, the paper advised that it should be carried out in a uniform manner to cope with the main theme of the Education System which, in fact, aimed at building a firm and solid foundation for the future socialist cadres.

Parents should also be made acquainted with the system, and it devolves on teachers to explain the positive tendencies of the new system to parents, the paper pointed out.

Three-Rs Classes

The *Hanthawaddy Daily*, in its editorial on May 19, expressed its satisfaction for the achievement of the persons concerned in response to the Government's call for wiping out illiteracy through Three-Rs classes.

Advising those who have finished the classes to keep themselves in practice, the paper went on to urge them to approach any person who could teach them should any of them forget certain lessons or to again

attend the classes when they begin in the next season.

In such a way those who have benefited through the classes can assure themselves of the knowledge they have learned in the Three-Rs classes the daily pointed out.

A decisive blow to a major scourge

Lauding the Revolutionary Government's four-year plan launched to eradicate completely the cultivation of poppy and to provide the farmers with a substitute crop that will be equally lucrative, the *Guardian* in its editorial on May 18, noted that poppy, or to be more exact, its product, opium, has for generations been one of the major scourges of the country.

The paper then recalled the widespread drug habit in the country as being the blessings of the then colonial government which ran special opium shops to cater to the needs of registered opium addicts, which more or less indicated that the growing of poppy for the production of opium would receive the proverbial blind eye treatment.

By curing and rehabilitating the opium addicts along with the eradication of the poppy, the paper believed that the Government's eradication of poppy by 1969 will have succeeded in striking a decisive blow against a major scourge of the country.

Treaty for Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Welcoming the Revolutionary Government's instruction to the Burmese Ambassadors in London, Moscow, and Washington to sign the treaty for Peaceful Uses of Outer Space simultaneously at these capitals, the *Vanguard Daily* in its editorial on May 23, outlined the importance of the said treaty as being the most essential instrument for world peace.

United States of America and the Soviet Union being the two strongest powers possessing the most powerful nuclear weapons the paper pointed out that they both are, at present, trying their best to conquer space and the moon which probably might be an effort for strengthening their nuclear strategy.

As it is a danger to mankind if they extend their war-like activities to the moon or space, the paper invited all the nations of the world to sign the treaty, which in fact, would be as powerful as the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and Disarmament Agreement.

THE TAUNGZALAT BLOSSOMS OF HMAUNG TALAN



The zalat flower.

By Shwe Boh

HMAUNG in Zohpe means the "banyan tree" (Nyaung) and "talan" means "a hillock" (kone). Thus "Hmaungtalan" means a hillock on which stands the banan tree—"Nyaungkone."

This scenic town in the northern Chin Special Division stands as a monument to the determination of the Chins as participants of the new history in the making—history that abounds with high ideals and a deep understanding. The area surrounding this town—in fact the whole of this special division—boasts of security and safety that is unbelievable for a traveller of any sort can go about anywhere without being molested by either thieves or robbers.

Towns are booming and blossoming in this division and among them such a town is "Nyaungkone"—"Hmaungtalan"—in Falam district. To the ceremonial opening of this town we went with a desire of lending a helping hand.

"Hmaungtalan" is 135 miles from the airport town of Kalemmyo. On our way from Kalemmyo to Hmaungtalan we passed many villages until we came to the Tiddim road, thirty miles from Kalemmyo. From there we made our way passing through such villages as Waylun, Lonetan and Valbe, and came to the Manipur river on whose both banks tower the mountain ranges that seem to reach up to the sky. From where we stood we could see the river flowing graciously for many miles.

A damsel from Hmaungtalan.



On continuing our journey from Falam we found that in many places the roads became prey to the natural hazards. Up to Ram Kalaung the road could be used for heavy vehicles but from then on the way became slightly narrower. Beyond Haka we came to the new road which would lead us to Hmaungtalan. This road had been constructed only a fortnight ago. It is 38 miles long and can only stand the strain of Jeeps and Landrovers now. At the start it was not initiated for use of any motor vehicle. But we were in a hurry to get to our journey's end, and thus our car made its way cautiously toward Hmaungtalan.

I took special note of the way in which this road had been constructed and wondered at the patience, skill and artistic potentials of those that undertook the task.

The opening ceremony of Hmaungtalan was held on the 16th of March, 1967. To this came the people from the nearby 34 villages. The Chairman of the ceremony, U Hsa Kaung, gave a brief speech in which he outlined the history of Hmaungtalan. The Chairman of the Chin Special Division, U San Kho Lian, then spoke in praise of the people that were instrumental in the construction of this road and of the help given by many. He asserted that with the completion of this road they were ready, willing and able to further expand the roads to improve the

communication system of their Division.

Lieutenant-Colonel Tin Ohn, the Chairman of the Security and Administrative Committee, next gave a speech outlining the political events that had hindered these people on their way to progress in the past. They were a neglected race with no link with Burma proper. But with the advent of Socialism under the guidance of General Ne Win and the Revolutionary Government their national pride had been restored and their place of importance defined. Their wish to partake in building up the new socialist nation has been morally and physically uplifted. They are not a distinct tribe but a Burmese race living in this hilly division. This has been made clear to them and this now they understand.

The Secretary of this Road Construction Committee, U Zwa Kon, then spoke on how this road came into being. In his speech he pointed out the grievous mistakes committed deliberately by the Colonial British in not enlightening them to the boon that would have been obtained if proper roads were constructed and contact made with the mainland. When the Independence was achieved the political government made vague promises that were not kept. This was a very serious act for which there could be no forgiveness because the Chins are a people that say what they mean and do what they say.

In this atmosphere of distrust and misunderstanding that the Revolutionary Government took over and assisted them in their regional and national developments. With such encouragement a meeting was convened in 1963 and this committee was formed, and the task of constructing this road was undertaken. The Chin Affairs Council and the Revolutionary Government gave them monetary help. Now their dream has come true amidst all the harassments from the insurgents.

U Zwa Kon went on to say that there are plans to extend the existing road. He asked the authorities to make Hmaungtalan road an asphalt one and to open Public Works Department, Trade Corporation and Wholesale Centres and to include Hmaungtalan in the Haka township. He also assured those present of the help he as well as the people of the region would give in carrying out these schemes.

On hearing these speeches we were amazed. We took pride in their willingness to work. We were surprised at their desire to do things for their region themselves and to rely more on their own men. With such zeal and enthusiasm Hmaungtalan's progress in the near future is unlimited.

This distinct characteristic of Hmaungtalan is reflected in one of its glories of nature—the "Taungzalat" blossom (Apocyanaceous Flower).

The entrance to Hmaungtalan with its pine trees, undulating grassland and cultivation terraces.



Hmaungtalan near the Burma-India border.

Its red colour is unlike the redness of the rose, and cannot be compared with crimsonness of other flowers. Its odour, unlike the pungent odour of many flowers, is subtle and sweet. It is not a single blossom but a cluster of small blossoms forming one unique flower.

According to Lieutenant-Colonel Tin Ohn, who has made a careful study of this flower, it is very medicinal as well as decorative. It can be made into a soup; it can be preserved; it can be dried and used appropriately. The Chins use it as a tonic for lost vigour. It can be taken as a medicine to quieten the nerves and strengthen the body. It is in fact very instrumental in preserving the sturdiness of the body. It is small wonder that many Chins live to be eighty and ninety. Many assumed that this flower could be the

famous ancient "Athawaddy" creeper. It could as well be . . . The striking feature of this flower is that it grows well only in the Chin Special Division.

Another distinct feature of Hmaungtalan is the hospitality of the inhabitants which knows no bounds. We were entertained with many dances depicting the striking tradition of their land. We saw such dances as the Miran dance telling of the happiness of the Chins at the fruiting season. The famous bamboo dance was performed. Here praise should be given to the damsels for their grace and agility. After these dances all the guests and hosts alike joined hands and danced the merry-go-round as the finale.

It was now dusk and we all gathered to have our dinner. It was here that their hospitality surpassed

any that we knew. Each guest was assigned with a damsel to see to our comfort. With their own hands they fed us and we likewise put food in their mouths with our hands.

In keeping with the hospitality extended to us we were requested to perform some dances with them. We were only too happy to demonstrate to them what little we knew. The cordiality that existed between hosts and guests was greatly felt when they sang songs wishing us good health and asking us to remember them on such a night as this when the moon gave her full radiance.

Forget, how can we? Their kind hospitality and their characteristic sincerity remain embedded in our hearts even up to now and it is a certain impossibility to put them out no matter how hard we try.

Translated by "K.H."

A WEARISOME SIGHT

By Tekkatho Maung Maung Khin

THE schools have reopened. There was an influx of students both old and new. It was the time for the intermingling of the parents, teachers and guardians. Some teachers have been transferred and new ones have arrived. In big cities and towns, as there were many schools, nobody seemed to have bothered to be concerned with the activities of the schools except for a few who have some connections with them.

It was quite different in the case of Htainbin village. In Htainbin there was only one Government Middle School for the children of the village. To it also came the children of the nearby villages, such as Sihnaungyo, Okshitkone, Myakantaw and Thabyekan. The news of the arrival of the new headmistress to Htainbin spread like wild fire in the neighbourhood. People flocked in to see the new headmistress. Some came to meet her and some, out of sheer curiosity, came to see what she was like.

As Daw Win Thida began as the new headmistress of Htainbin Middle School, she had a lot of visitors. To impress her visitor Daw Win Thida dressed herself well. She put on white jackets of crepe and tetoron and green longyis of tootal and tobralco. To add more charm to her appearance, she also had on a modern hairdo. The work and everything was new to her and she was ready to study the life of the villagers around her.

A week elapsed. The visitors have thinned down and she has become quite settled in her new post. She then turned her attention to the students. "Where do you come from?" asked the new headmistress to her students. The students said, "We are from Myakan village." Then she continued, "You came by boat. . . ." and the reply of the students was, "Yes, Sayamagyi."

Sayamagyi looked across the fields from the school and found that there was a stream to the north of the

school. Across the stream she could see inundated paddy fields. Thus, Sayamagyi came to know the route her pupils had to take to attend school.

Her assistant, U Mya Thi was also explaining to her the different paths the students had to take to come to school. He also said that the students had to come on foot. U Mya Thi said, "Sihnaungyo and this village touch each other. But Okshitkone and Thabyekan are further away, Sayamagyi. I think they are three or four miles further." In enquiring about the neighbourhood, Sayamagyi asked, "Isn't it slippery to walk on embankments?" U Mya Thi simply replied, "It just needs practice, Sayamagyi."

Then Sayamagyi thought of the school she had attended and taught as a Senior Assistant Teacher in Rangoon. She saw the vast difference. There was no transport problem for the students of Rangoon for they go to school in their own private cars.

As for the students of Htainbin, they had no shoes on their feet and their clothes were soiled and worn. In the rainy season, you could see rows of *khamauks* on the verandah of the school with drops of rain dripping down from them. Sayamagyi Daw Win Thida had never dreamt of being sent to such a place.

In her childhood, Daw Win Thida had attended a good school in Rangoon. After her high school she attended Rangoon University. In college she had a lot of friends. Most of her friends attended Bachelor of Arts class in education and Daw Win Thida, without any proper aim and object followed suit. When she became a Senior Assistant Teacher she was only twenty and she had no other worries because she was staying with her parents. Her parents sent her and fetched her when she went to work and so she spent most of her income on clothes. Even as headmistress of a middle school, she still thinks that she is not working to

earn a living but she thinks that she had been transferred to Htainbin as a responsible person by the order of the authorities.

While Daw Win Thida was thus lost in her thoughts, someone shouted, "Sayamagyi, please come and attend our discussion this evening." She was quite surprised by the interruption but the person continued saying, "Tomorrow, we have a village committee meeting."

Although the responsibilities of a Senior Assistant Teacher finishes with the end of the school, it was not the same in such a place as Htainbin. In Htainbin, as headmistress of the middle school, she must play a leading role in solving the problems of the village and there was no way of escaping it. Besides, the villagers looked forward to the suggestions and criticisms of the Sayamagyi.

Within a few days of her arrival she began to feel that she was part of the village. She came to know her duties and responsibilities and took full responsibility in the discharge of her duties. Although at first she was a bit backward to mix with the village elders, the ice was soon broken, and she began to work all out for the welfare of the village. "Oh. . . . Bagyi Doon, what is your problem?" she asked her visitor. To her question Bagyi Doon said, "I just came to tell you that yesterday when my son was coming back home after school, Tun Baw's son boxed him." "Oh! these children! Bagyi Doon, I will solve this problem," said Sayamagyi and to one of her students nearby, she said, "Maung Toe, go and call Bagyi Doon's son and Tun Baw's son. Tell their class teachers to come also." So, Daw Win Thida had her hands full with students' problems also. "You see, I have many problems and even early this morning I had to punish a group of kids from the Third Standard for they were trying to throw the dog into the water," said Sayamagyi. Bagyi Doon said, "These naughty children!"

but to Bagyi Doon's comments Sayamagyi replied, "It is quite natural for children to be naughty."

Three weeks had passed since Daw Win Thida arrived in Htainbin. The villagers had found her to be a charming person and she had been successful in handling the students of her school. The parents of the children put their full trust in her in looking after their children. One day, a Seventh Standard girl student came to her crying. The class teacher had told her not to cry and not to take the matter to Sayamagyi as it was a trivial affair. But the girl had not listened to her. She had gone direct to the headmistress. When Daw Win Thida saw her, she asked, "Who is responsible for this?" To this the girl replied, "Sayamagyi,

because of Sann Aung, I have lost my face." The girl had her head lowered. Sayamagyi said, "Are you from this village?" The girl replied in the affirmative and the Sayamagyi said, "Well, you can go home my girl, and I will solve this problem for you tomorrow." The girl went out but Sayamagyi was left in the room thinking about Sann Aung's mischief.

The next day, she asked for Sann Aung and the girl from the Seventh Standard. She said to Sann Aung, "Is this your drawing?" "Yes, Sayamagyi," said Sann Aung. At this moment Sayamagyi said, "Next time don't do it" and then she let the students go.

The girls of this school, the Sayamagyi have found, have been quite different from the others in

their way of dress and of beautifying themselves. On that very day Sayamagyi put out a circular saying that all students must wear proper Burmese dresses. The circular also said that the teachers and students must behave in a manner that is in keeping with their status.

The point to note was the change in the dress and the behaviour of the Sayamagyi herself. She was not so well dressed and had not put on so much make up as before. This can be understood, if we listen to Daw Bwint's remark. She said, "She had to put out that circular because it was not in keeping with the place. Sann Aung and the girl told me that it would have been better if they had drawn this picture when Sayamagyi first arrived."

Translated by S.K.G.



A MISSION ACROSS THE SEAS

By Maung Pe Kywe

John S.

"RIGHT 210 degrees!"
A voice blared from above through 'The Pipe.'

A young, ardent hand at the Wheel responded with instinctive spontaneity.

A few quick steerings and the arrow stayed at 210 degrees on the gyroscope.

The Burma Navy's frigate UBS *Mayu* was thus put into correct navigational course, now heading for the Coco Islands in the south.

The day was May 5th. On board were, apart from the Officers and the crew, 100 Pioneer Marine Youth consisting of 80 boys and 20 girls who hail from Rangoon, Bassein,

Moulmein and Meiktila. Their mission was to make a practical study of the marine life in and around the off-shore islands. Theoretically, they had had their full share at the Seikkyi Naval Training School for two weeks during which they found time to go observation trips to the naval dockyards, Meteorological department,

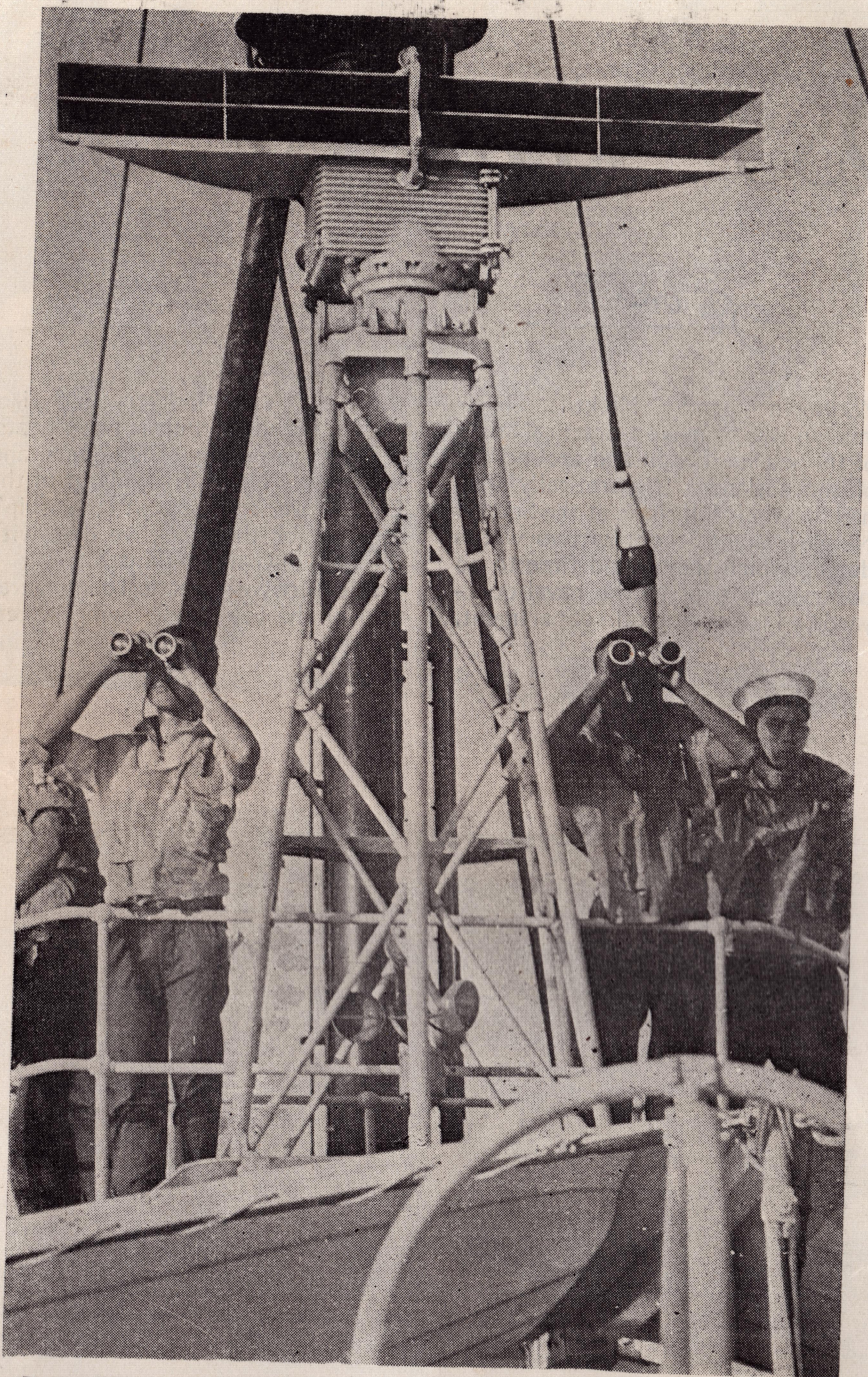
the People's Oil Industry in Syriam and on board the Burma Navy boats.

To a gathering of students and instructors Major Than Myint of the UBS *Mayu* spelled out the ship's journey for the next five days with the help of charts and maps.

A lecture with practical demonstration of the use of life-saving jackets

A gun on board interests Pioneer Marine Youth (left).
Boatload of Pioneer Marine Youth on sea off the palm-fringed islands (below).





Pioneer Marine Youth with binoculars scan the blue expanse.

and, in case of disaster, the orderly manner by which to take the life-boats was next conducted for the benefit of all.

With the tarpaulins available on the ship, we made a place for ourselves at the stern on the open deck while the 20 girls were provided with a berth just below the deck.

We then moved around in groups of 25 to explore the entire length and breadth of the ship—its engines, control-centres and the general workings of it were all observed

closely. In this we met a ready help of the staff which made the study all the more worth-while.

At the Pilot-room everyone took his or her turn at the wheel. How to steer the course correctly and efficiently and all the jargons connected with the piloting were noted with interest by the Pioneer Marine Youth.

Lieutenant-Commander Khin Maung Myint and his staff were busy up in the Navigation Room. They trained their binoculars in all directions of the blue expanse,

referred to the Chart on the table and made measurements with instruments every now and again. The room is the 'brain-centre' from which all 'nerves' flow out in pipelines to all the other rooms in the ship. From time to time, directions and orders are passed down these pipes for necessary action.

The Navigation Room is flanked on either side by small guns. The handling, range-finding, loading and firing of the guns were all shown to us. The students and instructors took their position in turns to try their hands at artillery.

"Ship ahead on yonder right!"

Signal rang out from the 'Watch-tower' which is up in the mast. Stationed in the 'Tower' to keep watch were two navy-men and two Pioneer Marine Youth. Over their heads a 45-mile-range radar was in action.

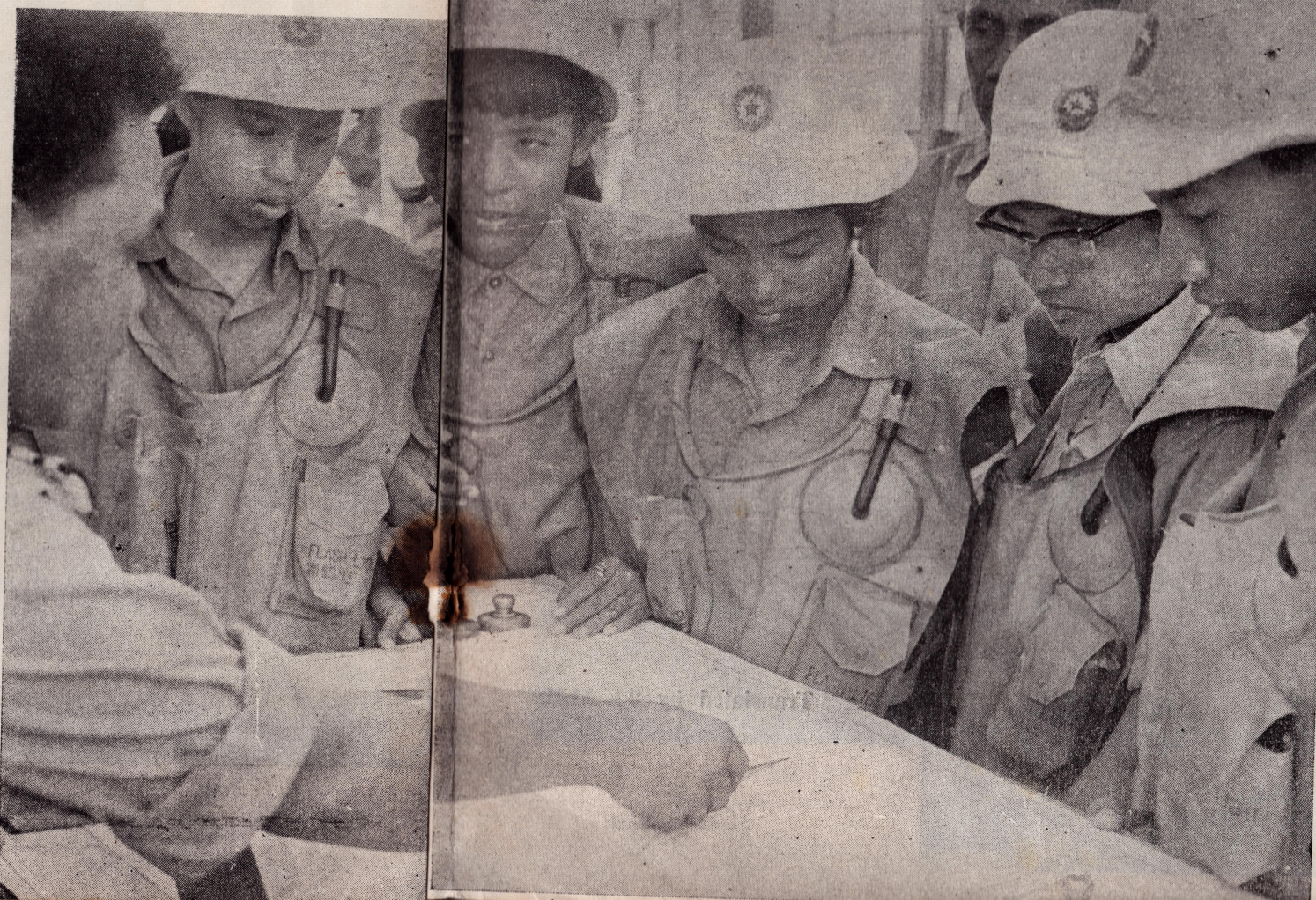
The rounds ended for the day after visiting the engine and boiler rooms below.

Night came. The sea raged and roared. Mayu tossed and rolled over the mounting waves. The painful agony of sea-sickness came upon a good many of us. We passed that night virtually devoid of any sweet dreams.



Learning semaphore signalling.

An officer explains about navigation.



Mayu anchored half-a-mile off the Coco Islands. It was eight the next morning. The naval team and Marine Youth conducted a hydrological survey in the area before landing on the islands of the swaying palms.

The Coco Islands lie 260 miles South-west of Rangoon. Of the two, the bigger island is 7 by 2 miles wide while the smaller one is barely more than 2 by half-a-mile. But size has nothing to do with its wealth.

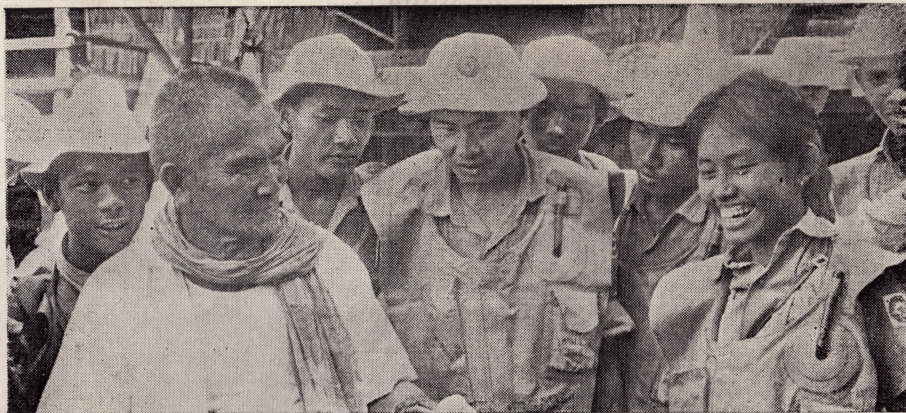
An annual supply of over 200,000 coconuts for Burma come from over 24,000 trees of the islands. Efforts are under way to increase the output to 4 to 5 hundred thousand in the future.

The Agricultural and Rural Development Corporation took charge of the plantations since 1960. The Burma Navy succeeded ARDC in December 1, 1964 and has ever since seen to the Development Programmes of the islands. Administrative Officer Major Thein Win (BN) explained the history of the islands to the Pioneer Marine Youth.

The Primary school, a hospital under construction and the rope factory on the island were all visited by the Marine Youth. They also learnt with keen interest the coconut plantation methods from the authorities. It is said that dykes might come up in the near future to turn the coast into a holiday beach for Model Workers and Outstanding Students of the country.

We headed east for 290 miles and arrived at the Mali Island of the Mergui Archipelago on the 7th afternoon.

The 2,251-foot Mount Sinkhaing is the land-mark of this thickly-forested



A villager shows a specimen of sea-food abounding in Mali Island.

Arrival on Mali Island.



22 by 5 miles terrain. The 1,131 islanders are either cultivators or fishermen. Various kinds of fruits and fish and fish products are the chief items of trade in Mali.

Islanders accorded a hearty welcome to the Marine Youth. The Karen traditional hospitality spiced with Christian good-will soon made us feel quite at home. The local folks were evidently delighted to see the young guests who braved across the seas to see their way of life. Happiness and laughter filled the air at the party which was held around the bon-fire in the evening.

The Marine Youth made a study tour of the island and observed the gardening and fishing works of the islanders. Intimate discussions were held with the local folks and thereby won the love and good-will of these southerners when they returned home the next day.

At the close of the training at Seikkyi on the evening of May 9, Major Ko Lay (BN) exhorted the Pioneer Marine Youth to continue sharpening their knowledge based on what they had acquired during the training at the School.

Happiness prevailed at the end of the ceremony.

Thus, the Pioneer Marine Youth has successfully fulfilled the training for leadership. It will be just a question of time for them to make profitable use of what they have acquired today.

Translated by "K.M.H."

In terms of progress, they speak a new language of promise with an air of youthful determination. To them success is theirs, given the opportunity to do their best. What achievements they have made, what promises they hold for the future were richly reflected at the 1966 Students' Festival held at the old royal capital of Mandalay.

The festival was an occasion for pride and merriment for students from all over the country. 1,250 student-representatives had many things of interest to offer to the 300,000 visitors who came to see the true state of affairs in the sphere of education.

The Central Committee for the 1966 Students' Festival was formed with Education and Health Minister Colonel Hla Han and Commander of the North-Western Command Colonel Sein Mya as patrons with Second-in-Command Colonel Van Kuhl as Chairman and District Inspector of Schools U Win Pe and Captain Tin Aung Soe as secretaries.

The Committee outlined the purpose of the festival under three heads:

(i) To bring out the educational needs transpired and inventions made in line with the new system of education;

(ii) To uphold the Burmese culture with performances of typical Burmese concerts; and

(iii) To ensure health and physical fitness of the students.

The whole idea is based on the main educational policy of the government which is to guarantee (i) basic education for all; (ii) professional studies for the deserving; (iii) systematic teaching of science; (iv) higher education for the bright and promising students.

The pavilions stood in full colour and grandeur with the towering Mandalay Hill at the background. Dotted along its gradual slope were pagodas of repute which could be reached by way of the stairs that run

all the way up to the peak. Visitors to the festival grounds also paid homage to these golden pagodas.

On display were many items of educational interest in the exhibition-halls which filled almost the entire expanse of the festival-grounds. Information in art, agriculture, domestic science, health, vocational science, handicrafts, marine life, technology, primary education, audio-visual scheme were there for all to see and remember. These and all the other items that offered fun and merriment remained open to the public from December 20th to the 31st.

The exhibition-hall that drew a good majority of the visitors was that of the Pioneer Air Youth. From parachute and life-jacket to the dissected Provost engine were there on display.

A group of Air Youth demonstrated to a huge crowd of on-lookers the techniques of flying their model planes. Questions put to them about aeronautics were also

Today's spectators, tomorrow's pilots.





Check before putting models in the air.

Practical model-making.



Speeding plane leaps into air.

answered with an air of authority much to the delight and wonderment of everyone.

At the beginning they made models in the likeness of the imported ones. After 5 months of constant practice they came to know the ins and outs of aero-modelling and made out models of their own design.

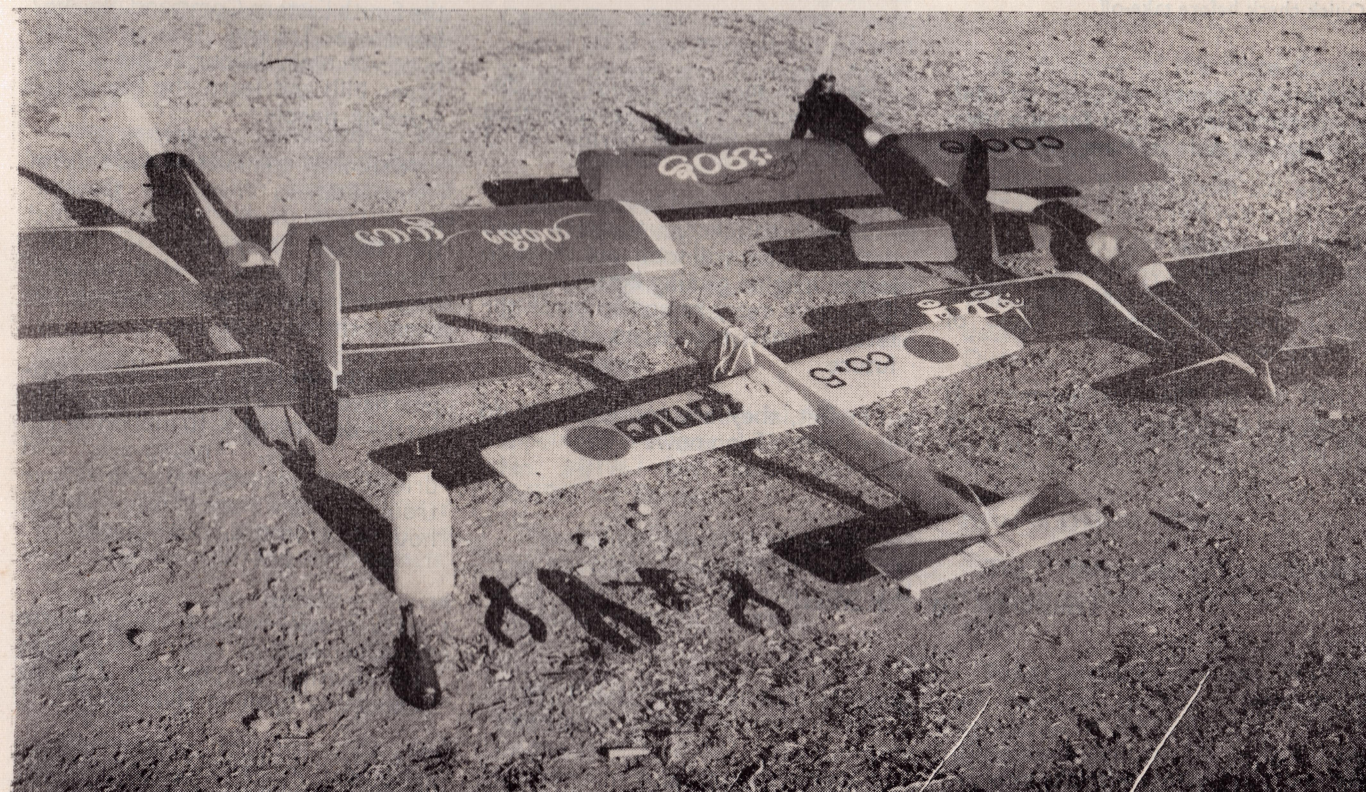
The balsa wood, a pair of pliers and a sharp knife, a special kind of gum for paper and wood were all that they needed to make a model plane. Even girl aero-modellers were seen doing their job with great ease and skill.

Founded as Aero-modelling Clubs at various State schools in Rangoon

in 1954, these air-minded members were given full vent to their aptitude by forming a close and more efficient body of Pioneer Air Youth since the First Student Festival in 1963.

The young boys and girls who displayed their talents at the Mandalay festival were just 40 in number. The whole membership of

As sweet as their names!





Quick check before take-off.

the Air Youth number 120; in total, with 80 males and 40 females from 26 high schools in Rangoon.

The ace model-plane flyer Wendy Tin, Pilot Kyi Kyi Aye and Technician Khin Nan Kyi had set a record of 240 rounds covering a 10-mile distance for 18 minutes 36 seconds. Their plane bears a beautiful name of Shwepyisoe—"a robin".

All in all their achievement is great and exemplary for all the youth of Burma. They have gone thus far

in spite of many hardships and disappointments they encountered during their training period of 3 years.

Their patience, tenacity and determination will soon put them to loftier heights gaining better results. They have every reason to break the international record in the near future.

In fact, they are too eager to do just that. Even now!

Translated by "K.M.H."

DIARY OF EVENTS

May 1967

15. Equipment Control Committee Secretary Captain Nyunt Hlaing of the National Planning Ministry is appointed Secretary to the four-member Enquiry Commission headed by Agriculture and Forests Secretary Colonel Tin Soe to probe into the loss caused by forward sale of Pound Sterling by the State Commercial Bank last year.

Acting Director of Health Services Dr. Kyaw Sein lauds the Operation Health Education for the success it has achieved in instilling health consciousness among the working people at the opening of a two-day seminar held at the Health Education Bureau in Myenigon, Rangoon.

16. The Information Reading Room at Mogok is turned into a Lending Library at a ceremony at the Library in Zehaung quarter in Mogok.

Officers and Other Ranks attending the South Eastern Command No. 4/67 In-Service Training Course contribute voluntary labour at the Sittang Paper Mill and learn the life of the working people.

A six-man committee made up of representatives from the Government Departments concerned and the Lanzin Party No. 15 D.S.C. (Rangoon) to work for elimination of beggars in the city of Rangoon has been formed.

Rainstorms have wreaked catastrophic havoc in the Ngaputaw Township totally destroying K 10 million worth of salt, "ngapi," "nganpyaye," and dried fish in the area and adding more troubles for more than 100,000 households in over 800 villages.

17. The 21-week training course for Overseers at the Public Works and Housing Corporation Training School was open in Thuwunna.

A rural dispensary built by the working people at U-Than village in Monywa Township opens.

18. The cyclonic storm with a speed of 60 to 80 miles per hour hits Kyaukpyu levelling almost everything in its furious path and ruining 90 per cent of the area.

19. Labour Director-General Lt.-Colonel Myo Myint is appointed Labour Secretary in addition to his own duties in place of Lt.-Colonel Khin Maung Lay, transferred to the Defence Ministry.

Electricity Supply Board C.E.O. Major Pe Than is appointed E.S.B. Chairman in addition to his own duties in place of Lt.-Colonel Tin Htut, transferred to the Defence Ministry.

20. In-Service Courses in Ideology for officers and other ranks of the Defence Services and People's Police Force and Civil Officers end at six Command Headquarters.

Central S.A.C. Vice-Chairman Colonel Maung Kyaw and his Special Relief Committee and the Commander of the Central Command, Colonel Tin U, inspect the storm-stricken Kyaukpyu and make arrangements for relief-measures.

Relief teams comprising District S.A.C. and Party Unit officials leave for the Ngaputaw township to arrange relief measures for the cyclone victims of over 800 villages in the area.

The Insein Government Technical institute holds a graduation ceremony for 157 students who passed out from the Insein Government Technical Institute.

The passing-out ceremony of the students who have completed special training courses in swimming and gymnastics is held at the Tun Hla Hotel Swimming Pool in Mandalay.

21. The Third Summer Refresher Course of the Pioneer Air Youth concludes with the holding of a ceremony at the Aung San Stadium, Rangoon.

22. The Burmese Ambassador in Moscow, U Ba Saw, signs the treaty governing exploration of outer space including the moon and other planets.

The second reorientation course for Burma Railway engine drivers begins at the Railway Training Centre, Insein.

23. Minister for Education and Health Colonel Hla Han leads a five-member mission to Hungary on a

ten-day tour at the invitation of the Health Minister of the Hungarian People's Republic. Other members of the mission are: Principal of the Moulmein College U Hla Shwe, Burma Pharmaceutical Industry Director Dr. Myint Than, Rangoon General Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr. Aung Thein, and Major Htoo Myint.

24. Indonesian Foreign Minister Mr. Adam Malik arrives at Mingaladon airport on a two-day visit.

Revolutionary Council Chairman General Ne Win receives visiting Indonesian Foreign Minister Dr. Adam Malik at the State House, and Foreign Affairs Minister U Thi Han entertains the distinguished visitor to dinner at the Strand Hotel.

Dr. Svasti Srishuk, Regional Officer of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for the Far East and Asia, arrives in Rangoon for a four-day visit.

25. Colonel Tin U, Revolutionary Council Member and Commander of the Central Command, is appointed a member of the Courts Martial Appeal Court in place of Colonel Tun Tha. The other members are Chief Justice Dr. Maung Maung and Retired Sessions Judge U Aung Gyi.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Dr. Adam Malik leaves Rangoon for Cambodia after a two-day visit. Seeing off at the Mingaladon Airport among others are Foreign Affairs Minister U Thi Han and Foreign Affairs Ministry Secretary U Tun Shein.

26. General Ne Win, Chairman of the Revolutionary Council felicitates His Majesty Mohammed Zahir Shah, King of Afghanistan, on the occasion of the Independence Anniversary of Afghanistan, which falls on the 27th instant.

The Ministry of Judicial Affairs has appointed the Special Crimes Court No. 34/1967 for Thaton and No. 35/1967 for Tavoy.

The Judicial Ministry has appointed the Appellate Court for examination of appeals against decisions of Local People's Courts of Rangoon.

27. Public Works and Housing Minister Brigadier Sein Win makes an on-the-spot study of water project for Moulmein at the Zathabyin and Tayana villages.

The Academy For Development of National Races holds its first graduation in Sagaing. The graduates number 185 in all.

Revolutionary Council Member and Transport and Communications Minister Colonel Than Sein and Union Chief Justice Dr. Maung Maung stress the need for co-operation between Judiciary and S.A.C. at a meeting attended by judges and magistrates of the two districts of Prome and Thayetmyo and members of the District and Township SACs.

28. Minister for Transport and Communications Colonel Than Sein meets members of the Basic Organization of the People's Workers' Council in Prome and discusses with them Party organization and socialist construction.

The Thaketa State Primary School No. 13 built by the working people of the Thaketa 7th Ward opens.

29. The United States Information Service presents Space Exhibits to the Government at a ceremony held at the Botahtaung No. 6 State High School.

Mrs. Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, sends a message of condolences to General Ne Win over the recent cyclone in Kyaukpyu area.

30. Premier of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, Mr. Chou En-lai sends a message of sympathy to General Ne Win in connexion with the cyclone which recently hit Kyaukpyu.

Shan State Affairs Council Chairman U Tun Aye visit the Kyetmauktaung Dam in Kyaukpadaung Township of Myingyan District.

31. The Australian Government expresses sympathy and contributes 10,000 Australian dollars for the relief of cyclone victims.

The three-day Co-ordination Meeting of the Loikaw District SAC ends.

Field Marshal Ayub Khan, President of Pakistan, sends a message of sympathy to Revolutionary Council Chairman General Ne Win, in connexion with the recent cyclone which hit Bassein and Kyaukpyu.

BOXING SOUTH OF THE EQUATOR

By Hla Baw

RANGOON'S boxing fans braved rains June 1 and June 2 to witness the semi-final and final cards of the special selection tournament organized by the Burma Amateur Boxing Federation to pick a team for the international tournament currently under way in Djakarta. Long starved of top class boxing, they showed their appreciation in no uncertain terms. And the gladiators in the ring, realizing the importance of the occasion, gave their all—in ring science and in sheer punching power.

There was one big factor for the standard produced. Several of Burma's top boxers had been in strict training for months under West German Coach Arthur Achenbeck and others, given a big hint of the approaching meet in Djakarta, had also been in training for the event. Particularly fit and ready for the selection meet were the ring artists from the North West Command and perhaps the most eye-catching performance was produced by flyweight Ohn Shwe who comes down yearly from Mandalay to participate in all major tournaments in Rangoon.

In the preliminaries, Ohn Shwe turned back an experienced campaigner, former flyweight champion Alexander. He turned on a speed that proved too fast for the former champion and came across with a rapier-like left that seldom failed to find its mark. Against this weapon and a sharp right-cross, the champion's challenge foundered. In the semi-finals, Ohn Shwe fought a great fight to outpoint Hla Shwe who had represented Burma in the Fifth Asian Games at Bangkok last December. In the final, Ohn Shwe showed up even more stylishly against Padam Bahadur, a two-fisted fighter who made no pretensions to style. Bahadur was outclassed and Ohn Shwe found himself a solid choice for the flyweight berth to Djakarta.

Another northern boxer who put on a pleasing show was light-flyweight Ye Nyunt Lay. He had played second fiddle to Kyaw Shein for a number of

years. In the preliminaries, he took care of newcomer San Myint, a southpaw from Maymyo who recently took the Defence Services flyweight title, and Kyaw Shein himself. In the finals, he outpunched Tin Aung Gyaw who had represented Burma in the Bangkok Games.

The surprise performance of the finals came from bantamweight Ni Ni, who had been campaigning for years and who had represented Burma in several international tournaments. Last year when he was eliminated by the up-and-coming Win Maung for the bantamweight berth to the Fifth Asian Games held at Bangkok, many felt that the younger boxer would keep on improving and that Ni Ni, good as he is, would be overshadowed by Win Maung. It was Win Maung that Ni Ni met in the final on June 2.

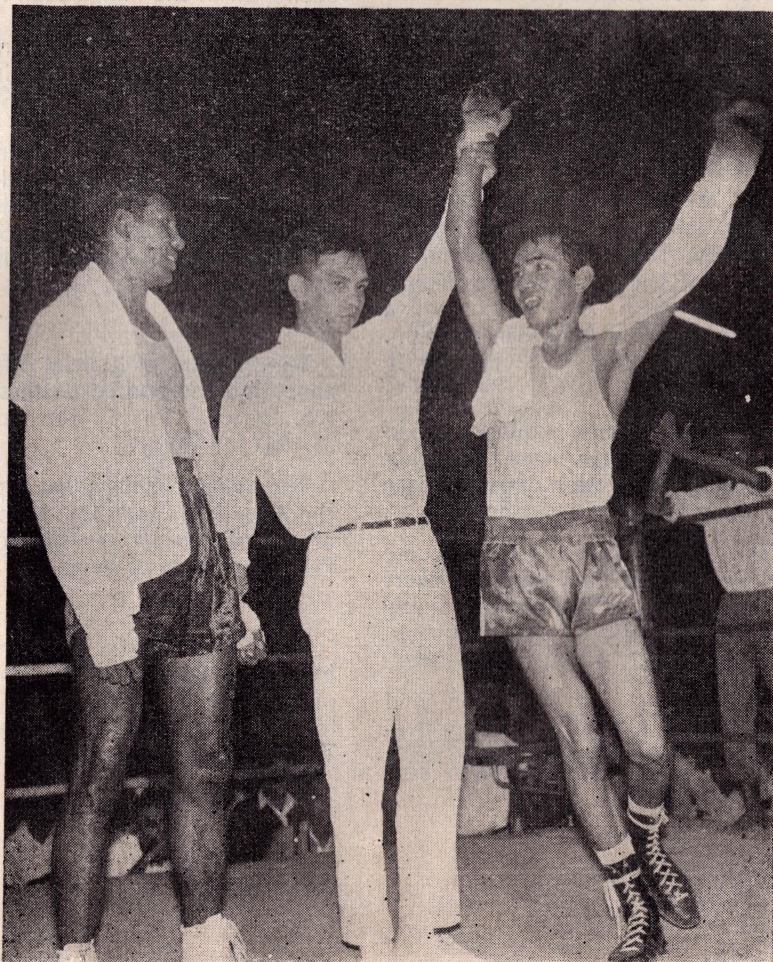
He produced a sharpness that surprised all. It enabled him to counter-punch the younger lad and at the end it was Ni Ni who gained the majority verdict of the judges.

Making his first appearance in an international tournament abroad will be featherweight Aung Moun. In an exciting final, his bruising style gave him the nod of the judges, split three-two.

Tin Tun who has been fighting for years as a featherweight makes his international debut as a lightweight on the recommendation of the national coach. Tin Tun's ability is untested in Burma and it remains to be seen how he fares in the heavier bodyweight category.

The team to Djakarta is accompanied by Warrant Officer Kyi Tun as Coach and Major Tin Tun as Manager.

THE COME-BACK: Ni Ni, who had been beaten by Win Maung (left) in the selection tournament for the Fifth Asian Games, gets his hand raised as the winner when the two met in the selection final for the Djakarta International Tournament.



Victorious Pegu Division team, carrying the coveted trophy, joyfully run around the stadium track after scoring the top honour at the Fifth Inter-state and Division Athletic Tourney.

Photo by U Than Aung (Loketha)

Back Cover:

A triumph of community effort is the 38-mile-long Haka-Hmaungtalan motor highway. Its completion facilitated the opening of the Hmaungtalan sub-township in the Chin Division. Labour on this road project was contributed by the Lao-tu, Miran, Zopelu and other local races. Among the large gathering attending the sub-township opening ceremony are these damsels, as dainty as the red zalat flowers on their Chin Hills.

Photo by U Lay Ni

